

HOLT ISLAND RINGING 14TH – 15TH AUGUST 2017

The weather was generally overcast but warm, there were some sunny spells on 15th. The wind was very light. We had a large catch particularly of juvenile Blue Tits and Great Tits. It would seem that most of the adults have either moved (migrating) to other sites or are keeping a very low profile as they are moulting and very vulnerable to predation.

There seem to be a number of flocks of Tits roaming around visiting the bird feeders, some were quite young suggesting later or replacement broods. Many had red on the underside of their feet from feeding either on elderberries or on insects on the fruit. We found one Blue Tit with scaly legs similar to those seen in the Chaffinches, it would seem that the disease is now beginning to affect them too, so hygiene remains very important on the feeders and water bottles.

A number of butterflies were seen including Red Admiral, Small White, Comma, Peacock and Meadow Brown. Also Common Hawkers, Brown hawkers and a Black Darter.

Species	New Adults	New Juveniles	Re-trap Adults	Re-trap Juveniles	Total
Wren			1		1
Dunnock	1	3	4	11	19
Reed Warbler		2			2
Garden Warbler		1			1
Blackcap	3		1		4
Robin		3	2		5
Blackbird			2		2
Long-tailed Tit		5		2	7
Blue Tit		18	6	11	35
Great Tit		7		18	25
Chaffinch		2			2
Total	4	41	16	42	103

When one went round the site there was not much evidence of birds around, very little song, but there are large numbers of birds hidden in the thick undergrowth as shown by the numbers caught.